

Appl. No.: 10/690,395
Amdt. dated 01/07/2005
Reply to Office action of October 22, 2004

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated October 22, 2004.

Applicants first note with appreciation the Examiner's thorough examination of the application as evidenced by the Office Action. In response to the Office Action, Applicants have canceled non-allowed claims 1-45 and 54 in favor of allowed claims 46-53. Applicants submit that these claims were not canceled in light of the prior art but instead, were canceled so that the allowed claims could issue as a patent. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application for the non-allowed claims. As the application as amended only includes allowed claims 46-53, Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued in the application. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

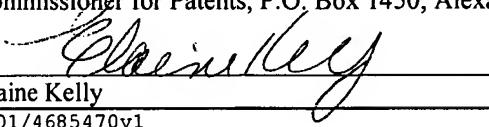


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment,
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 7, 2005.


Elaine Kelly

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